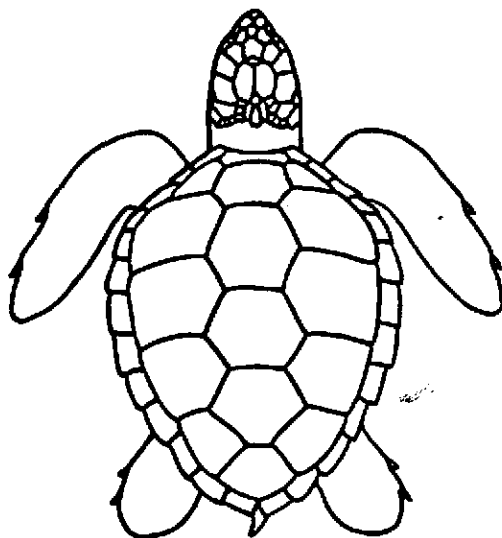


1988
FIRST QUARTER REPORT
OF THE
SEA TURTLE STRANDING AND SALVAGE NETWORK
ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS OF THE UNITED STATES
JANUARY - MARCH 1988

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May 1988



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Contribution Number CRD-87/88-21

This report summarizes sea turtle strandings documented through the efforts of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) during the first three months of calendar year 1988. All records received as of 30 April 1988 are included. Any additional data for the period January - March 1988 received by the network subsequent to that date will be included in upcoming summaries.

A total of 202 strandings were reported during the first quarter of 1988. Of these, 199 were wild turtles and three were known headstarted turtles. Reports of incidentally captured turtles and live sighting reports received through the network are not included in the summary, as these are not considered to be true strandings. True strandings are defined as turtles which wash ashore dead or alive or are found floating dead or alive (generally in a weakened condition). Five states reported strandings during the three month period. They are: Texas, Louisiana, Florida (Gulf and Atlantic), North Carolina, and Massachusetts. There were no stranding records received from Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Stranding figures presented in this summary refer to wild strandings only, unless otherwise stated. Table 1 summarizes reported strandings by species and state over the three month period. Table 2 summarizes strandings by species and month for all states combined. Table 3 is a summary of strandings by month and state for all species combined.

Loggerheads were the most frequently reported species accounting for 60.8% of all reported strandings. Green turtles were the second most frequently stranded species, comprising 25.8% of all reports. Kemp's ridleys made up 5.0% of the total. Leatherbacks comprised 3.3% of all reports, hawksbills made up 1.3% of the total and unidentified turtles accounted for 3.8% of all reports.

Regionally, 72.4% of the strandings were reported from the southeast U.S. (FL-Atlantic through NC), 26.6% from the Gulf of Mexico (TX through FL-Gulf), and 1% from the northeast U.S. (VA through ME). There were no stranding reports received from the U.S. Caribbean.

Stranding levels reported from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Massachusetts were consistent with 1987 first quarter strandings for these states. Strandings reported from Florida-Gulf showed a 41% and 59% decrease over 1986 and 1987, respectively. In contrast, strandings reported from Florida-Atlantic increased 204% and 233% over 1986 and 1987, respectively. The highest increase in strandings on the Atlantic coast of Florida occurred in the Hutchinson Island area (St. Lucie and Martin counties). The Florida Marine

Fisheries Commission and the NMFS Southeast Regional Office are investigating this high incidence of strandings in relation to several net fisheries operating in adjacent waters.

We sincerely acknowledge the efforts and contributions of all network participants who assisted in the documentation and compilation of stranding records during this quarter.

Table 1. Marine turtle strandings reported from 1 January - 31 March 1988 by species and state of occurrence. All three months are combined. Strandings of headstarted turtles are given in parentheses. Only states which reported strandings are included.

	<u>TX</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>FA</u>	<u>NC</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>C. caretta</u>	17	1	9	86	1	1	115
<u>C. mydas</u>	1	0	13	41	0	0	55
<u>D. coriacea</u>	0	0	1	6	0	1	8
<u>E. imbricata</u>	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
<u>L. kemp</u>	4(2)	0	2(1)	5	0	0	11(3)
Unidentified	1	2	2	3	0	0	8
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TOTAL	23(2)	3	27(1)	143	1	2	199(3)

Table 2. Marine turtle strandings reported from 1 January - 31 March 1988 by month and state of occurrence. All species are combined. Strandings of headstarted turtles are given in parentheses. Only states which reported strandings are included.

	<u>TX</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>FA</u>	<u>NC</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	3(1)	3	3	35	1	2	47(1)
February	5(1)	0	5	39	0	0	49(1)
March	15	0	19(1)	69	0	0	103(1)
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TOTAL	23(2)	3	27(1)	143	1	2	199(3)

Table 3. Marine turtle strandings reported from 1 January - 31 March 1988 by species and month of occurrence. All states are combined. Strandings of headstarted turtles are given in parentheses.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>C. caretta</u>	29	25	61	115
<u>C. mydas</u>	10	16	29	55
<u>D. coriacea</u>	2	3	3	8
<u>E. imbricata</u>	0	1	1	2
<u>L. kempi</u>	1(1)	3(1)	7(1)	11(3)
Unidentified	5	1	2	8
 TOTAL	 47(1)	 49(1)	 103(1)	 199(3)

Table 4(a). Marine turtle strandings reported from TEXAS, -
1 January - 31 March 1988 by species and month of
occurrence. Strandings of headstarted turtles are
given in parentheses.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>C. caretta</u>	3	2	12	17
<u>C. mydas</u>	0	0	1	1
<u>D. coriacea</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>E. imbricata</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>L. kempi</u>	0(1)	3(1)	1	4(2)
Unidentified	0	0	1	1
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TOTAL	3(1)	5(1)	15	23(2)

Table 4(b). Marine turtle strandings reported from TEXAS,
1 January - 31 March 1988 by county and month of
occurrence. All species are combined. Only
counties from which strandings were reported are
included. Strandings of headstarted turtles are
given in parentheses.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Matagorda	1	1	4	6
Calhoun	1	0	1	2
Aransas	0	0(1)	0	0(1)
Nueces	0(1)	2	3	5(1)
Kleberg	0	1	4	5
Kenedy	0	0	3	3
Cameron	0	1	0	1
Willacy	1	0	0	1
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TOTAL	3(1)	5(1)	15	23(2)

Table 5(a). Marine turtle strandings reported from LOUISIANA, -
1 January - 31 March 1988 by species and month of
occurrence.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>C. caretta</u>	1	0	0	1
<u>C. mydas</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>D. coriacea</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>E. imbricata</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>L. kempi</u>	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	2	0	0	2
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TOTAL	3	0	0	3

Table 5(b). Marine turtle strandings reported from LOUISIANA,
1 January - 31 March 1988 by parish and month of
occurrence. All species are combined. Only
parishes from which strandings were reported are
included.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Terrebonne	1	0	0	1
Iberia	2	0	0	2
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TOTAL	3	0	0	3

Table 6(a). Marine turtle strandings reported from FLORIDA(GULF), 1 January - 31 March 1988 by species and month of occurrence. Strandings of headstarted turtles are given in parentheses.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>C. caretta</u>	1	1	7	9
<u>C. mydas</u>	0	4	9	13
<u>D. coriacea</u>	0	0	1	1
<u>E. imbricata</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>L. kempi</u>	0	0	2(1)	2(1)
Unidentified	2	0	0	2
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TOTAL	3	5	19(1)	27(1)

Table 6(b). Marine turtle strandings reported from FLORIDA(GULF), 1 January - 31 March 1988 by county and month of occurrence. All species are combined. Only counties from which strandings were reported are included. Strandings of headstarted turtles are given in parentheses.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Monroe	1	3	4	8
Collier	1	0	0	1
Lee	1	1	4	6
Charlotte	0	0	2	2
Sarasota	0	0	1	1
Pinellas	0	1	6	7
Gulf	0	0	1	1
Walton	0	0	1	1
Okaloosa	0	0	0(1)	0(1)
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TOTAL	3	5	19(1)	27(1)

Table 7(a). Marine turtle strandings reported from FLORIDA(ATL), 1 January - 31 March 1988 by species and month of occurrence.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>C. caretta</u>	22	22	42	86
<u>C. mydas</u>	10	12	19	41
<u>D. coriacea</u>	1	3	2	6
<u>E. imbricata</u>	0	1	1	2
<u>L. kempi</u>	1	0	4	5
Unidentified	1	1	1	3
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TOTAL	35	39	69	143

Table 7(b). Marine turtle strandings reported from FLORIDA(ATL), 1 January - 31 March 1988 by county and month of occurrence. All species are combined. Only counties from which strandings were reported are included.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Duval	0	2	0	2
St. John's	6	1	2	9
Flagler	3	0	6	9
Volusia	3	3	9	15
Brevard	7	4	18	29
Indian River	0	0	2	2
St. Lucie	2	18	18	38
Martin	5	8	3	16
Palm Beach	5	3	4	12
Broward	2	0	3	5
Dade	2	0	2	4
Monroe	0	0	2	2
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TOTAL	35	39	69	143

Table 8(a). Marine turtle strandings reported from NORTH CAROLINA, 1 January - 31 March 1988 by species and month of occurrence.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>C. caretta</u>	1	0	0	1
<u>C. mydas</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>D. coriacea</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>E. imbricata</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>L. kempi</u>	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	0	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	1	0	0	1

Table 8(b). Marine turtle strandings reported from NORTH CAROLINA, 1 January - 31 March 1988 by county and month of occurrence. All species are combined. Only counties from which strandings were reported are included.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Dare	1	0	0	1
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TOTAL	1	0	0	1

Table 9(a). Marine turtle strandings reported from MASSACHUSETTS, 1 January - 31 March 1988 by species and month of occurrence.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>C. caretta</u>	1	0	0	1
<u>C. mydas</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>D. coriacea</u>	1	0	0	1
<u>E. imbricata</u>	0	0	0	0
<u>L. kempi</u>	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	0	0	0	0
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TOTAL	2	0	0	2

Table 9(b). Marine turtle strandings reported from MASSACHUSETTS, 1 January - 31 March 1988 by county and month of occurrence. All species are combined. Only counties from which strandings were reported are included.

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Barnstable	1	0	0	1
Dukes	1	0	0	1
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TOTAL	2	0	0	2